

TURKEY
8 February 1962

American delegate Stevenson pointed out that the Soviet Union took a similar stand against the Marshal Plan which saved Europe from postwar ruin and prevented Europe from being dominated by communism. He said that the Soviet Union was nervous about the proposed long-term Alliance for Progress because the Soviet Union regards the establishment of tranquility in Latin America as contrary to its interests.

TURKISH FORCES GEARED FOR NUCLEAR AGE

Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1815 GMT 7 February 1962--M

(Summary) During the senate discussions on the budget for the Turkish armed forces, Defense Minister Ilhami Sancar gave some enlightening information about the armed forces. The minister said that because of the current concept of war, our country's geopolitical position, the strategic conditions, and the requirements of the nuclear age, our armed forces must be developed, and to achieve this adequate financial capacity is needed. In view of these basic principles, the efficiency of our armed forces will be improved and they will be provided with better maintenance facilities. Technical, logistical, and mobile efficiency of our weapons and vehicles will also be improved. Our armed forces will be kept at an efficient level to enable them to discharge our commitments to NATO and the needs of collective security. Thus our land forces will be modernized with higher firing power and mobility. Our naval and air forces will preserve their fighting power which enables them to perform their tasks with confidence.

The sum total of the armed forces' expenditures does not remain at a fixed level; it will always change. From one year to another the expenditures required for the operation and the maintenance of defense installations scattered throughout the country will impose additional burdens in our defense budget as these installations are completed and become operative.

The minister said that promotion in the armed forces will be based on competence, and that a new personnel bill which will provide for such promotions will soon be submitted to the assembly. One aim of the government is to provide the armed forces with efficient training and education, and strong morale worthy of the nation's confidence.

He said that garrison facilities will also be improved. Under a law previously passed the funds obtained from the sale of property belonging to but not needed by the armed forces will also be allocated for this purpose. Work aimed at the completion within 10 years of adequate garrisons is underway, the minister said.

The minister said that since the spring of 1961 our armed forces "have been reorganized in accordance with the requirements of modern warfare and with new principles of management dictated by the nuclear age." Thus the mobility and firing power of our combat forces have become more effective.

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Referring to financial resources, the minister said: Our national budgets are incapable of providing all that our armed forces need. Neither can they provide the necessary funds needed for fully equipping our forces with war weapons and vehicles. Because of this a great part of the facilities needed by our army is being supplied by our great friend and ally, the American government, under the current military aid program.

The budget now before you contains only the expenditures for personnel and the upkeep of the army. In accordance with the NATO agreements, and like any other NATO country, we constitute one of the links in NATO defensive alliance. Under bilateral agreements between member nations, each nation is receiving aid to raise its armed forces to the level required by NATO standards. Under this principle and under the bilateral agreement we have concluded with the American Government, we, too, are receiving aid according to a program. As a member nation we, too, are making certain small contributions to the joint defense establishments built in our country by the NATO. Our membership in the CENTO alliance does not impose any financial burden on us. I request you to endorse this budget which is needed for the upkeep of our armed forces, and which, compared with the armed forces budget of modern armies is of a very moderate character.

In answering questions, the minister stated that the Turkish armed forces are performing their tasks faithfully and in full loyalty to the constitution, to principles laid down by Ataturk, and to the spirit of the 27 May revolution.

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GURSEL RECEPTION--President Cemal Gursel received a group of visiting Turkish Cypriot students in the morning of 6 February. Later in the day he received Admiral James Russell, the commander in chief of Allied Forces Southern Europe, who is paying a courtesy visit to Turkey. (Ankara Domestic Turkish 1100 GMT 6 February 1962--M)

METEOROLOGICAL STATION--The Agriculture Ministry has decided to set up a meteorological station in Manisa. For this purpose 60,000 liras have been allocated by the ministry. (Ankara Domestic Turkish 1100 GMT 6 February 1962--M)

NURI BESEK--The five-member preparatory committee set up by the National Assembly met on 6 February and unanimously decided to lift the parliamentary immunity of Nuri Beser. (Ankara Domestic Turkish 2045 GMT 6 February 1962--M)